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# Federation of Bath Residents' Associations

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Ordinary Committee starting 6pm

Thursday 4th December 2025

## Minutes

### Attendees:

Rachael Hushon LCA/FoBRA Chair, Theresa Franklin CCRA/FoBRA Secretary, Neil Dickinson LCA, Sally Parkes SH&SRRA, Jan Shepley Widcombe, Mike Wrigley Widcombe, Malcolm Baldwin CARA, Morny Davison Catherine Place, Tricia Owens St James's Square, Benji Orford Thompson University of Bath Student Union, Issy Downer University of Bath Student Union, Mark O'Sullivan Greenway Lane, Ceris Humphreys PERA, Tony Miles UOPRA, David Monson UOPRA, Jeremy Labram CRA, Julie Ingerfield BBRA

### Apologies:

Jeremy Boss - Bathwick Hill, Dorigen Couchman, - Sydney Buildings  
Corinne Evans - Deputy Vice Chancellor, Ghika Savva - Student Community Partnership  
Nick Tobin - Ainslie Belvedere, Suzanne Chase - SH&SRRA, Ian Tarr - TARA  
Rob Richardson - Avondale and Osborne Rd RA, Patrick Rotheram - Vineyards  
Liz Tayler - Entry Hill, Sabrina Earnshaw CARA

### New & Departed

The Chair welcomed Tricia Owens, new Representative for St James's Square.

And

Regretted the recent passing of Barry Henderson. Barry served as FoBRA Secretary for many years, contributing greatly to the Federation and to the City of Bath.

### Minutes approved from Committee Meeting 11th September, 2025

Approved by Tricia Owens  
Seconded by Julie Ingerfield  
Show of hands: Carried

### Planning Group Report - Local Plan Submission

The Council's consultation on its Local Plan Options Reset document and its Movement Strategy have both now finished. B&NES will publish the consultation report 'in due course.' The Options Document and Site Options Map can be viewed on the B&NES website.

### Bath Rugby:

The formal Permission for the redevelopment of the Rugby Stadium has been granted.

The planned stadium will increase the capacity from 14,500 to 18,000.

Local residents recommend:

1. An improvement to disabled access, which are currently limited.
2. Some commitment to replace trees which are to be removed from the site.
3. Clarification on Flood Risk Management and Flood Evacuation Plan about safety.

In addition to Rugby an undefined number of **non rugby major events**, (described as, theatre, music, e-Sport, sporting events, plus other Commercial Events with attendance of more than 5000,) excluding Rugby Union, will take place at the venue, plus a number of **non rugby events** with a lesser attendance capacity of 1000.

The planned Riverside bars and restaurants will, potentially, be open every day.

Local Residents are concerned about noise and transport impacts.

Conditions and key points, about mitigation have been omitted from planning approval. It is understood that these issues will be covered under licensing agreements, however, local residents consider this to be inadequate, as some noise-generating activities will not be subject to licensing at all.

A letter to Councillor Kevin Guy and Chief Executive Sophie Broadfield, will be sent before Christmas

## **Transport and movement strategy.**

FoBRA has submitted a paper on the above to the Council.

Key points in the FoBRA paper include:

1. The City of Bath should be viewed as a whole. The CAZ boundary map or the WHS boundary are therefore a far better basis to protect the heritage assets in the city, which go beyond the historic core.
2. Georgian buildings are especially vulnerable to noise and vibration (often amplified by the **structural connection to under-street Georgian vaults**) which has the potential to damage their fabric and affect resident quality of life and wellbeing. In this regard, enforcement of both speed and weight limits across the city would be critical for these measures to be effective.
3. Much more emphasis needs to be placed on measures to **reduce journeys into Bath, from Bath, and through Bath**. Data shows whilst car journeys within Bath **are reducing**, journeys into and out of Bath **will grow substantially over the next decade** due to increased housing in NE Somerset and Wiltshire.
4. The cumulative effects of 27,000 proposed new homes in North East Somerset on transport infrastructure within the City of Bath need to be assessed and mitigated within the transport plan.

The Transport lead said there was some sympathy with the Council on the movement strategy. She said that the data used could better reflect where Bath is now. The CAZ and lorries no longer coming through the city centre are not reflected.

There is a feeling that local Parishes, have a stronger influence over traffic flow in Bath than they should have.

Mark O'Sullivan said FoBRA's comments on the Council's new Movement Strategy are excellent. He urged the council to move to implementation.

He felt the only measure which could achieve traffic reduction would be a park-and-ride on the Eastern side of Bath since traffic from the east is greater than from elsewhere, as this is the main route from the M4 and also provides access from much of western Wiltshire to key services, including the RUH.

Jeremy Labram agreed with an Eastern Park-and-ride. Jeremy felt a linear Park-and-ride on the carriageway of the Batheaston bypass, could be a start. He said little engineering work would be needed. It would require the Department for Transport to change ownership of the road to the Council. No new bus service would need to be set up as there are already many buses on the route. The support of Batheaston residents for this measure was questioned.

The extended use of the CAZ infrastructure was also discussed as a possible lever for traffic management across the city.

The Chair said she was optimistic about keeping the Transport dialogue open with the Council team.

Discussion ensued on the re-opening of Cleveland bridge, and whether the temporary ban on heavier vehicles (18 tonnes and over), to protect the structure would be kept, or if the weight restriction may change.

Bath University buses, especially the U1 route, crosses the Grade 1 Pulteney Bridge as part of their journey into the city centre, connecting the campus to central Bath. Pulteney Bridge is primarily a pedestrian bridge. The U1 bus could divert to the restored North Parade Bridge.

Feedback from the Council on the Transport and Movement Strategy is expected in Spring 2026.

## **World Heritage Site Advisory Board (WHSAB)**

The notes from Jeremy Boss, who attended the last meeting, have been emailed to R.A's.

Jeremy raised 2 FoBRA concerns:

1. Protecting Heritage assets (including vaults) Jeremy requested support for a 20MPH speed limit across the city, as well as a vehicle weight restriction.
2. Damage caused by weeds, especially outside the historic core.

## **Independent Advisory Group (IAG)**

Malcolm Baldwin said

1. There would be an increase in Police visibility at this year's Christmas Market.
2. Anti-social behaviour has been reported at the Old Widcombe Primary School.
3. Police are asking that crime is reported online. Reported crime enables Avon and Somerset Police to build a map of crime hotspots, which in turn allow them to target interventions and better manage resources.

Issy Downer who attended the meeting, focussed on Nighttime Security. Issy alerted the meeting to "**ASK FOR ANGELA**".

- **ASK FOR ANGELA** a silent way to signal you need help without confronting the person making individuals feel unsafe.
- **ASK FOR ANGELA** for anyone—male or female, gay, straight, etc.—who feels vulnerable. But it is particularly useful in cases where young females are subjected drinks (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) spiked.
- **ASK FOR ANGELA** empowers individuals to get support in threatening situations, whether on a date or at any social event.

The Chair thought "**ASK FOR ANGELA**" information could be shared with 6th Form Pupils. Link: [Home - Ask For Angela](#)  
AOB

1. Benji Orford Thompson requested if it might be possible for FoBRA to support University of Bath students participating in the Local Plan process which may clash with summer vacation and absences.
2. The Chair drew attention to the fact that FoBRA is founded upon a non-discrimination, non-gender-based culture of respect. She asked that all members adhere to the Constitution which states: "The Federation is open and inclusive, regardless of gender, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, socio-economic situation, religion, disability or age"
3. Theresa Franklin drew attention to the City Centre. She said it was much cleaner and more vibrant than this time last year. Many more retail businesses have opened, and the traders are upbeat and happy. In addition, it has become a superb walking city. This year the Christmas Market appears to be drawing even more visitors, who seem happy to be in the beautiful City of Bath. Malcolm Baldwin added that there is increasing interest from premium retailers in setting up a presence in Bath. The Chair said Bath Clean and Green team have been doing an excellent job, and it would be good to have the leader of the Clean and Green Team do a presentation to FoBRA. Members were urged to report issues in their area to Fixmystreet. Chair agreed to communicate these improvements to Council team.

**Meeting ended.**